

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## NELSON P. COHEN UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF ALASKA

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## ANCHORAGE MAN INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY FOR ATTEMPTED POSSESSION OF COCAINE WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on December 13, 2007, Ronald Lee Hall of Anchorage, Alaska, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Anchorage on charges of attempting to possess approximately one kilogram of cocaine, with the intent to distribute it.

The one-count indictment named Hall, age 39, as the sole defendant.

Assistant United States Attorney James Barkeley, who presented the case to the grand jury, indicated that the law provides for a mandatory minimum of ten years in prison, a maximum life sentence, a fine of \$4 million and a minimum 8-year term of supervised release. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed would be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

The Drug Enforcement Administration Anchorage Interdiction Task Force, manned by agents and officers of the DEA, Alaska State Troopers, Anchorage Police Department and Anchorage Airport Police, conducted the investigation leading to the indictment in this case.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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